

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 03921 271450Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----006680 271451Z /50

R 271331Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2168
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T JIDDA 3921

EXDIS

LONDON FOR KINSOLVING

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PEPR, US, YS
SUBJECT: PROPOSED DELEGATION TO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

REF: STATE 131114 (NOTAL)

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTTEL, POL COUN
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INFORMED MFA DIRECTOR FOR ARABIAN PENINSULA AFFAIRS ISMAIL
AL-SHURA ON MAY 27 OF PROPOSED DELEGATION TO PDY.

2. SHURA SAID HE WOULD PASS INFORMATION ALONG TO HIS
SUPERIORS IMMEDIATELY. HE SAID THAT, IN HIS OPINION, THIS
WAS STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION. SAUDI ARABIA HAS COME TO
FEEL RATHER ISOLATED IN PDY AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO

HAVE U.S. PRESENCE THERE TO BOLSTER MODERATE INFLUENCE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE. HE WAS NOT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC, HOWEVER, AS TO OUTLOOK FOR IMPROVEMENT IN PDRY. HE THOUGHT THAT RESTRUCTURING OF PARTY APPARATUS WOULD NOT CHANGE SITUATION, SINCE ABD AL-FATTAH ISMAIL IS STILL ABD AL-FATTAH ISMAIL. ISMAIL WILL RETAIN HIS INFLUENCE AND POSITION OF SALIM RUBAYI ALI WILL CONTINUE TO WEAKEN.

3. HAVING SAID THIS, SHURA EMPHASIZED THAT SAUDI ARABIA WAS STILL NOT GIVING UP HOPE. SAUDI AMBASSADOR WILL BE RETURNING, ALBEIT RELUCTANTLY, TO ADEN TONIGHT (MAY 27) AFTER TWO MONTHS CONSULTATION IN KINGDOM. SAUDI EMBASSY IN ADEN IS ALSO BEING INCREASED TO THREE-MAN POST AS SIGN OF SAUDI WILLINGNESS TO KEEP DOOR OPEN TO PDRY.

4. COMMENTING ON U.S. DIFFICULTIES WITH GPDRY OVER EMBASSY BUILDING IN ADEN, SHURA SAID THAT HE WAS CERTAIN THAT LOCATION OF U.S. BUILDING WITH ITS VIEW OF HARBOR WAS KEY REASON GPDRY WANTED TO TAKE IT OVER. SAUDI ARABIA HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET PIECE OF LAND NEAR THE WATER TO BUILD NEW EMBASSY, BUT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL. HE THOUGHT THAT AS LONG AS CUBANS AND RUSSIANS WERE IN PDRY, GOVERNMENT THERE WOULD NOT WANT SAUDI EMBASSY WHERE IT COULD SEE ANYTHING.

5. IN EARLIER CONVERSATION BETWEEN FONMIN UNDER SECRETARY
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MANSOURI AND CHARGE, MANSOURI SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY THOUGHT IT WAS A MISTAKE FOR SAG TO ADVISE USG TO MOVE TOWARD RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH PDRY AT THIS TIME. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO WAIT UNTIL OCTOBER WHEN TRUE NATURE OF PDRY REGIME WOULD EMERGE MORE CLEARLY. CROWN PRINCE HAD DECIDED OTHERWISE, HOWEVER, LARGELY ON BASIS OF COMMUNICATIONS FROM CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY.

6. CHARGE NOTED THAT CONGRESSMEN'S COMMUNICATIONS WERE PERSONAL AND NOT OFFICIAL, BUT MANSOURI SAID THAT FACT THAT DEPT OF STATE HAD PASSED THESE MESSAGES GAVE THEM SOME OFFICIAL STANDING IN EYES OF CROWN PRINCE. FAHD HAD THEREFORE DECIDED TO ADVISE USG TO PROCEED EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS STILL CONSIDERABLE FRUSTRATION AND CONCERN WITHIN SAG OVER THE APPARENT FAILURE OF SAG'S EFFORTS TO REDUCE SOVIET INFLUENCE IN ADEN. MANSOURI SAID HE PERSONALLY FELT THAT RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH USG WOULD ONLY ADD TO REGIME'S PRESTIGE AND WOULD OFFER LITTLE ADVANTAGE TO USG SINCE THE ACTIVITIES OF DIPLOMATS IN PDRY ARE SO HIGHLY RESTRICTED.
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